

Project Update: June 2015

In this second phase of our project, we have studied in depth the different potential circuits within the project site that we have been discovered during the first phase.

Thanks to a long observation and study, we have been able to identify many different tourist attractions that we can use as circuits in the project site. We have decided to classify three main destinations in total of 17.25 km according to their importance.

These different circuits have been set up due to their important variable of landscape, many different species of fauna and flora, welcoming village, large tradition and culture and legend.

Circuit number one: Analagnana circuit

AJIABE –TSINGY-AMPOMBOFOFO VILLAGE-SACRED TOGNY –ANALAGNANA-AMPAKABE-AGNALAGNANA-TURTLE SITE-AMPOMBOFOFO VILLAGE-ANJIABE

Attraction: View of the Indian Ocean, limestone, village Ampombofofo, beach of Analagnana, Ampakabe Lagoon (natural pool), coastal ecosystem, sea turtle, lemurs, sea and water birds.

In addition to the fact that this circuit has beautiful natural beach, this is a sacred place that based many story and culture of Anjoaty tribe in all Bobaomby region. This circuit is sacred place where different invocation activities that is addressed to ancestors such as to ask for rain and blessing.

From Anjiabe, you will get first to the Tsingy about 1 hour of tourist walk. This is what the villagers called Anjiamangoraka or Ambatomarangitry.

Then you get the village of Ampombofofo where you can appreciate different kind of medicinal plants and the big trees *Ficus megapoda* which can be interesting for picture session for souvenirs.

Before getting to the main destination, the beach of Analagnana, attention can be attracted by a small fence construction called in Malagasy language “TOGNY”. This is a sacred construction that gives an important meaning to the Anjoaty tribe culture. This is a very special place where the “Mpijoro” addresses the traditional pray and offer zebu to the ancestor.

At 6.27 km, from base camp in Anjiabe, you finally get the beautiful sacred beach of Analagnana. This place is also a right place of sea turtle *Chelonia mydas* to lay eggs.

More in the northern side, about 1.22 km is the beach of Ampakabe which is an extraordinary natural pool which can host over 15 people. This is still a virgin place with no pollution and anthropogenic activities.

On the way back, Visitors can follow the east coast where they can see sea turtle playing and taking profit from the sunlight. In addition, there is a panoramic view of the limestone which is about 300 m and presence of migrant sea birds alongside the coast.

Loop circuit can be done to get back to Ampombofofo village in order to discover the water birds roosted around the small lake near the Ampombofofo village around 4.00 pm or 5.00 pm which is also a favourable time to admire lemurs group which came to feed with some fruit trees nearby the village.

In brief, loop circuit can be done from Anjiabe to Anjiabe during which visitors can observe and appreciate different landscape, species of Fauna and Flora which are endemic and historical.

Circuit number two: Ratabirano circuit

ANJIABE – ANDOVOKO – BATROOST - MANGROVE FOREST - RATABIRANO-BAOBAB FOREST – ANJIABE

Attraction: lovely birds, bats, *Brookesia* (the tiniest chameleon family), mangrove forest, sacred beach, massive baobabs.

The same as Analagnana (the first circuit), Ratabirano is a sacred place for the community of Anjiabe only where local people practice their traditional event called “Antsabe” every year or every 2 years with the main goal to ask for blessing and rain to ancestors.

This second circuit goes first to Andovoko which is about 1.3 km from Anjiabe (the main camp) to appreciate different species of fauna and flora in particularly birds, Madagascar buzzard, and bats (*Pteropus rufus*).

Before achieving the main destination, you will follow the 2 km of mangrove forest which is dominated by *Rhizophora mucronata* and *Avicennia marina*.

About 3.25 km from the village of Anjiabe, you finally get out to the sacred beach of Ratabirano where you will enjoy the view of Nosy Antaly (ancient Tomb of Anjoaty tribe ancestors) and the tourist destination Emerald Sea. You will finalise the circuit by admiring the big baobab trees (*Andasonia madagascarensis*) nearby the forest and at same time have a swimming time and picnics.

You get back to Anjiabe which is about 3.4 km from there.

Circuit number three: Antaravy circuit

ANJIABE – MADIROFITO – AMBOMDROMBE – ANTARAVY - ANDAKOROBÉ –AMPASIRABE – MORAFENO – ANTANAMBAO – MADIROBE - MAROMBY- ANJIABE.

Attraction: fisherman village of Antaravy, birds, lemurs.

This last circuit is about 6.78 km and takes 2 hours walk from Anjiabe. This village is the main village where people from Anjiabe take local boat to go to Emerald Sea to fish or to go to Ramena village.

This circuit passes through Madirofito about 1.97 km from Anjiabe. Then, you will get the village Ambodrombe which is about 2.4 km from Madirofito. This circuit has known for small birds called Madagascar pygmy kingfisher.

Once you get the village of Antaravy, you can enjoy the fisherman beach and learn about the Anjoaty tribe culture and history with the elders of the village Mr Silasy.

On the way back, you pass through Andakorobe village to start the “loop circuit”



Ampasirabe, Morafeno, Antanambao, Madirobe and finally get to Maroaomby, best spots for birds Madagascar hoopoe in the evening before reaching the base camp in Anjiabe.

Map of project circuits



Natural pool in Ampakabe, Analagnana